

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A CATV conditional access system comprising a digital head end for transmitting picture signals of digital programs in a batch mode to terminals provided in a plurality of areas,

5 wherein said digital head end transmits both an area code every area and program data to the terminals employed in the plurality of areas, said area code being used to recognize such an area to which each of the terminals belongs, and digital programs of not-yet-provided services in the respective areas
10 being indicated every area in said program data, and

each of the terminals identifies said area code with said program data so as to exclude a picture signal of a digital program of a not-yet-provided service in such an area to which the terminal belongs, from the picture signals of the digital programs
15 transmitted from said digital head end.

2. The CATV conditional access system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said terminal identifies said area code with said program data so as not to display a picture of a relevant digital
20 program by not demultiplexing a multiplexed picture signal of said relevant digital program among a plurality of multiplexed digital picture signals.

3. The CATV conditional access system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said terminal identifies said area code with said
25 program data so as to exclude electronic program guide information related to the digital program of the not-yet-provided service

from electric program guide information transmitted from said digital head end.

4. A CATV conditional access method comprising the steps

5 of:

providing a digital head end for transmitting picture signals of digital programs to terminals provided in a plurality of areas;

transmitting both an area code every area and program data to the terminals employed in the plurality of areas, said area code being used to recognize such an area to which each of the terminals belongs, and digital programs of not-yet-provided services in the respective areas being indicated every area in said program data; and

15 identifying said area code with said program data so as to exclude a picture signal of a digital program of a not-yet-provided service in such an area to which the terminal belongs, from the picture signals of the digital programs transmitted from said digital head end.